

Reply to Common Council File No. 091303
From DOA-Budget and Management Division

January 28, 2010

Ref: 10007

Common Council File Number 091303 contains a resolution reserving up to \$1,097,287 from the 2010 Common Council Contingent Fund for "as needed" transfer to the Fire Department Salary and Wages Account. This resolution seeks to restore funding for a decommissioned Ladder Truck that occurred as a result of adoption of the 2010 City of Milwaukee Budget.

In the context of difficult financial circumstances, the 2010 City of Milwaukee Budget provided for the elimination of one engine or ladder company in the Milwaukee Fire Department. The Milwaukee Fire Department response times are monitored regularly and in great detail. Based on data provided by the Milwaukee Fire Department, the 2010 Budget implementation was estimated to have a two to seven second impact on response times. Most recent data from the Milwaukee Fire Department show that the department continues to respond to fire and emergency medical calls for service within a six minute average. The MFD is implementing its budget to contain "brownouts" to 2 per day.

Contingent funds are more appropriately used for unforeseen circumstances, not as a means to adjust budget-established service levels.

**RECOMMENDATION: PLACE ON FILE COMMON COUNCIL FILE
NUMBER 091303**



Mark Nicolini
Budget & Management Director

JM:cei

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